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PTO/SB/30 (10-01) (AW 02/02) Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Address to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231 09/486,973 Application Number: March 6, 2000 Filing Date: Chihiro Sakai et al. First Named Inventor: 1755 Art Unit: Examiner Name: Michael A. Marcheschi Attorney Docket Number: **NSG-180US**

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application. Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

| 1. Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|-----------|--|-----------------------------------|-------|--|------------------|---------------------|--------------|------|----|
| • | a. Previously submitted | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 CFR 1.116 previously filed on <u>September 19, 2002</u>. (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered.) | | | | | | | | | | | ۱۱ |
| | ii. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief | | | | | | or Reply Brief previously filed on | | | | | 1 |
| | iii. Dother | | | | | | | | | NOV | 74 | ^- |
| | b. | | Enclo | sed | | | | | | | ۱۲ ۷ | Zl |
| | | i. | | Amendment/Reply | iii. | | Information [| Disclosure State | ment (IDS) | NOV TC | 4 - | |
| | | ii. | | Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s) | iv. | | Other | · | | 10 | 17 | U |
| 2. Miscellaneous | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| , | a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) requir | | | | | | | equired) | | | | |
| | b. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. | Fee | Fees The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed. | | | | | | | | | | |
| | a. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | i. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | ii. 🛛 Extension of Time fee (37 CFR 1.135 and 1. | | | | | 17) | | | | | |
| | | iii. | | Other | | | 01 FC:1801 | | 740 | .00 OP | | |
| | b. 🛮 Check in the amount of \$ 1030.00 enclosed | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | c. Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Name (Print/Type) Kenneth N. Nigon | | | | | Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) | | | 31,549 | | | | |
| Signature | | | | lunt | Churter | | Date | | October 21, 2002 | | | |
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| clas | s ma | ail in a | n enve | nis correspondence is being elope addressed to: Assistar S. Patent and Trademark Ofi | it Commissione | for F | atents, Box R | | | | L | |
| | | rint/Ty | | Kenheth N. Nigon | | | ······································ | | | | | |
| Signature | | | | (fut | 21 | | | Date | October 21, 20 | 002 | | |
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Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND Fees and Completed Forms to the following address: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231.